

Veterinary Hospital of New Waverly  
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## **Your Pet's Surgery**

Thank you for entrusting us with the care of your pet. Our team is well trained and is very experienced in handling many surgical procedures. However there is always a small risk, less than 2%, of complications during surgery. To minimize problems, we follow a series of steps when we do a surgery or dental procedure-using anesthesia. If you have any questions about the specific procedure we are doing for your pet please ask us.

### **Step 1- Examination**

Your pet will be given a thorough pre-surgical examination and history taken on the morning of their procedure, to help ensure that they are healthy. We also strongly recommend that blood work be done prior to any anesthetic procedure and is required for all pets 7 years and older. Pre-anesthesia blood work allows us to evaluate your pet for any underlying problems that may require us to modify our anesthetic or surgical plans. (See the reverse side about Pre-Anesthesia Blood work).

### **Step 2- Pain meds prior to surgery**

Prior to all surgeries, your pet will be given pain and other medications. These are used to help relax your pet before receiving anesthesia and also to minimize pain to the area being operated on. (Ex. De-claws receive a "ring Block" that deadens the feeling to the paws) During the surgery prep we may also use IV fluids for senior pets and "at risk" pets. We may send home pain medication to be used following the surgery.

### **Step 3- Surgery Prep**

The procedure begins in our treatment room. Your pet will receive Isoflurane gas anesthesia. (Isoflurane is very safe and is used for some human surgeries.) If needed the surgical area will be prepared by shaving the hair and disinfecting the surgical sight.

### **Step 4-Actual procedure**

All invasive surgeries (such as spays, abdominal exploratory, and orthopedics are done in our sterile surgery suite, using aseptic gown, mask and gloves.) Minor/non-invasive procedures are done in the Treatment room. During the procedure a Certified Veterinary Technician assists the Doctor and monitors your pet during both the surgery and recovery. Monitoring includes blood pressure, EKG, pulse rate, respiratory rate, temperature and oxygen inhalation.

### **Step 5-Recovery**

After the procedure is completed, your pet will be transferred to the ICU area where we can monitor your pet. We will be watching your pet to ensure there are no post-surgical complications. **You can expect a call from one of the medical staff when your pet is in recovery.** They will let you know how the procedure went and **set-up a discharge appointment for you.** (In the event that you did not receive a phone call by 2pm, please call us.)

### **Step 6- Discharge**

When you come to pick up your loved one, we will escort you to one of our exam rooms to discuss the surgery and post-surgery instructions. During the discharge we will explain how the surgery or dental went along with explaining how much food your pet can receive the night following the procedure, exercise restrictions, special needs, and what you should be watching your pet for. You will also receive a written report reiterating these items. Finally, we will go over your invoice and receive payment.

### **Step 7- Post-Surgical Follow-up**

We will call you the business day following a procedure to check on your pet and answer any questions you may have since the discharge. **If you have any concerns or questions about your pet and the procedure do not hesitate to call us 936-344-8469.**

## **Pre-Anesthesia Blood work**

### **What is pre-anesthesia blood work?**

Pre-anesthesia blood work consists of two tests, a complete Blood Count (CBC) and Routine Blood chemistry screening.

### **Why get Pre-anesthesia Blood work done?**

This helps to identify possible problems with your pet that may not be evident during the physical examination. If your pet had abnormal test results, we may take special precautions during the surgery or even reschedule it. Normal blood work also gives us baseline data that we can refer to if your animal becomes ill.

### **What does the Complete Blood Count (CBC) show?**

This test evaluates the 3 major blood cell types: red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets.

The red cells are the oxygen carrying cells. A low RBC can indicate blood loss through hemorrhage or destruction of the cells by parasites, toxins or the body's immune system. It can also be a sign of an underlying chronic disease.

The white cells are the infection fighting cells. An increased WBC can be indicated of a bacterial infection, inflammation, parasites, or cancer. A low WBC is often a sign of a viral infection or severe bacterial infection.

The platelets are important in clotting the blood or stopping bleeding. A low platelet count can cause serious bleeding problems.

### **What does the Routine Blood Screen show?**

Our modified blood chemistry evaluates liver and kidney values and the blood glucose, or blood sugar level. Abnormal values may mean that the liver or kidneys are not functioning properly. Changes in blood sugar or blood glucose can be caused by diabetes, infection, or cancer. We may recommend further testing to completely evaluate your pet's health. Depending on the severity of the problem, we may give fluids or other medications during your animal's procedure or postpone the procedure until the abnormality has been corrected.

### **Does this really need to be done now?**

If your animal is 7 or older we require the blood work be done each time anesthesia is used. We do this to ensure the health of your pet and to make the anesthetic procedure as safe as possible. If our animal is younger than 7 we strongly recommend blood work to be done. It can help us to identify an underlying disease in its earliest stages. It also gives us valuable baseline data if your pet becomes ill. We can refer back to the blood work results to see what is normal for your pet's body.

### **How long is this test good for?**

We accept pre-anesthesia blood work if it was done within one month of the procedure.

**If you have any questions about pre-anesthesia blood work and the benefits of these tests for your pet's health or if you would like to decline to have these tests done prior to the procedure please alert us.**